2003-2004

Expenditure Budget

Volume I

Estimates and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

Québec

2003-2004

Expenditure Budget

Volume I

Estimates and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

for the fiscal year
ending March 31, 2004

Tabled in the National Assembly
as required by sections 45, 46 and 47
of the Public Administration Act (R.S.Q., c. A-6.01)
by Mrs. Monique Jérôme-Forget
Chair of the Conseil du trésor
and Minister responsible for Government Administration

Conseil du trésor
Québec

ISSN 0706-0319
ISBN 2-551-21815-2
2nd edition
Legal Deposit, 2nd quarter 2003
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

FOREWORD

A 2003-2004 Expenditure Budget and the related Annual Expenditure Management Plans were tabled in the National Assembly on March 11, 2003. The appropriation required for this budget were not voted, since the National Assembly was dissolved the next day. This 2003-2004 Expenditure Budget is being tabled in the National Assembly following the election of April 14, 2003.

INFORMATION ON THE 2003-2004 EXPENDITURE BUDGET

This Volume contains information on the National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly, i.e. the Public Protector, the Auditor General, the Director General of Elections and the Lobbyists Commissioner. The first section, which concerns the National Assembly, includes its 2003-2004 appropriations and its annual expenditure management plan for the fiscal year. The other section presents the appropriations and annual expenditure management plans of each of the Persons Appointed by the National Assembly.

In addition to this volume entitled "*Estimates and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the National Assembly and Personal Appointed by the National Assembly*", three other volumes comprise the information on the 2003-2004 Expenditure Budget:

Volume II: *Estimates of the Departments and Agencies*

This volume presents the appropriations required by the government for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. It distinguishes between the expenditure budget and the capital budget. Appropriations are broken down by portfolio and program.

Volume III: *Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the Departments and Agencies*

This Volume consolidates the Annual Expenditure Management Plans in abridged form. A summary of the expenditure budget by portfolio appears at the beginning of this volume.

Volume IV : *Message from the Chair of the Conseil du trésor and Additional Information*

This Volume IV begins with a message from the Chair of the Conseil du trésor that presents the highlights of the forthcoming expenditure budget. The chapters that follow provide further information on the expenditure budget and other information on related topics.

Table of Contents

Page

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Introduction 3

Estimates 5

Annual Expenditure Management Plan 13

PERSONS APPOINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Estimates 17

Annual Expenditure Management Plans

- The Public Protector 25
- The Auditor general 29
- The Director General of Elections 33
- The Lobbyists Commissioner 37

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

INTRODUCTION

The objective of the National Assembly administration is to support its members in their role as legislators, controllers of government activity and intermediaries between voters and the public administration. In order to successfully fulfill its mission, the National Assembly adopted a strategic plan based on three orientations to ensure that the efforts of the various branches under its administration focus on the same priorities.

Improved and better adapted services in order to strengthen the National Assembly's effectiveness and to offer a greater degree of support to members in performing their duties. This orientation reflects the administration's willingness to improve the quality of support offered members, notably by taking advantage of technological opportunities.

A National Assembly that is better understood, more accessible and better presented. This consists of improving public awareness and knowledge of the mission, role and operations of the National Assembly and its constituting members, the MNAs.

An administration banking on the skills and mobilization of its personnel, as well as modern and efficient management of its resources. In order to offer the best possible service to MNAs, the National Assembly administration must ensure renewal of its personnel and maintain a high level of employee skills.

MNAs must, in carrying out their duties, be able to rely on administrative services independent of those of the government. Nonetheless, the strategic orientations detailed above aim to have the National Assembly administration form an integral element of the global process of modernization of the public service.

The expenditure budget published in this volume is intended solely for information purposes, given that the Office of the National Assembly is responsible for making any amendments deemed necessary and approving the budget.

National Assembly

Programs	2003-2004 Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	2002-2003 Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. Secrétariat général et Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires parlementaires et institutionnelles	16 619,9	-	6,0	**16 625,9**	15 770,4
2. Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires administratives	33 567,3	4 570,0	5 800,3	**34 797,6**	36 997,3
3. Statutory Support Services for Parliamentarians	41 446,8	-	-	**41 446,8**	43 232,1
	91 634,0	4 570,0	5 806,3	**92 870,3**	95 999,8
Less: Permanent Appropriations				**92 870,3**	95 999,8
Appropriations to be Voted				-	-

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	2003-2004	2002-2003
		($ 000)
Remuneration	**66 291,2**	66 201,1
Operating	**25 188,4**	25 309,5
Transfer	**154,4**	139,0
Total	**91 634,0**	91 649,6
Programs Staff Level	**586**	586
Total Staff Level	**586**	586
Capital Budget		
Fixed Assets	**5 806,3**	8 920,2
Total	**5 806,3**	8 920,2

Program 1
Secrétariat général et Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires parlementaires et institutionnelles

Elements	2003-2004				2002-2003
	Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. Parliamentary affairs	5 952,0	-	-	**5 952,0**	5 363,8
2. Institutional affairs	10 667,9	-	6,0	**10 673,9**	10 406,6
	16 619,9	-	6,0	**16 625,9**	15 770,4
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Act respecting the National Assembly, (R.S.Q., c. A-23.1)					
Element 1				**5 952,0**	5 363,8
Element 2				**10 673,9**	10 406,6
Appropriation to be Voted				-	-

The objective of this program is to assist Members in the exercise of their duties as legislators and controllers of government activity, to inform Members of Parliament and citizens of the National Assembly's activities, administer the library and provide for protocol and pedagogical activities, as well as inter-parliamentary activities.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	Elements		2003-2004	2002-2003
	1	2		
		($ 000)		
Remuneration	5 470,3	7 923,2	**13 393,5**	12 305,4
Operating	481,7	2 640,3	**3 122,0**	3 354,6
Transfer	-	104,4	**104,4**	104,4
	5 952,0	10 667,9	**16 619,9**	15 764,4
Total Staff Level	101	157	**258**	257
Capital Budget				
Fixed Assets	-	6,0	**6,0**	6,0
	-	6,0	**6,0**	6,0

Program 2
Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires administratives

Elements	2003-2004				2002-2003
	Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. Technical and Administrative support	15 314,6	-	5 710,3	**21 024,9**	23 060,0
2. Resource management support	18 252,7	4 570,0	90,0	**13 772,7**	13 937,3
	33 567,3	4 570,0	5 800,3	**34 797,6**	36 997,3
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Act respecting the National Assembly, (R.S.Q., c. A-23.1)					
Element 1				**21 024,9**	23 060,0
Element 2				**13 772,7**	13 937,3
Appropriation to be Voted				**-**	-

The objective of this program is to provide the support necessary for parliamentarians and administrative units with regard to the management of financial, human and material resources, as well as services relating to the dissemination of the debates, information technology and the security of individuals and property, along with the management of the buildings and restaurants.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	**Elements** 1	2	2003-2004	2002-2003
		($ 000)		
Remuneration	9 374,9	11 585,9	**20 960,8**	20 117,0
Operating	5 939,7	6 666,8	**12 606,5**	12 536,1
	15 314,6	18 252,7	**33 567,3**	32 653,1
Total Staff Level	198	130	**328**	329
Capital Budget				
Fixed Assets	5 710,3	90,0	**5 800,3**	8 914,2
	5 710,3	90,0	**5 800,3**	8 914,2

Program 3
Statutory Support Services for Parliamentarians

Elements	2003-2004				2002-2003
	Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. Indemnities and Allocations	21 305,9	-	-	**21 305,9**	22 457,9
2. Members' Staff	17 996,9	-	-	**17 996,9**	18 539,2
3. Parties' Research Services	1 515,0	-	-	**1 515,0**	1 510,4
4. Pension Plan of the Members of the National Assembly	629,0	-	-	**629,0**	724,6
	41 446,8	-	-	**41 446,8**	43 232,1
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly, (R.S.Q., c. C-52.1)					
Element 1				**12 988,5**	14 259,9
Element 4				**629,0**	724,6
Act respecting the National Assembly, (R.S.Q., c. A-23.1)					
Element 1				**8 317,4**	8 198,0
Element 2				**17 996,9**	18 539,2
Element 3				**1 515,0**	1 510,4
Appropriation to be Voted				**-**	-

The objective of this program is to ensure that Members have necessary resources for carrying out their duties.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	**Elements** 1	2	3	4	**2003-2004**	**2002-2003**
			($ 000)			
Remuneration	13 954,2	16 155,4	1 198,3	629,0	**31 936,9**	33 778,7
Operating	7 351,7	1 791,5	316,7	-	**9 459,9**	9 418,8
Transfer	-	50,0	-	-	**50,0**	34,6
	21 305,9	17 996,9	1 515,0	629,0	**41 446,8**	43 232,1

Transfer Appropriations

	2003-2004	2002-2003
	($ 000)	
Program 1 - Secrétariat général et Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires parlementaires et institutionnelles		
Jean-Charles Bonenfant Foundation	**104,4**	104,4
Program 3 - Statutory Support Services for Parliamentarians		
Other Transfer Projects	**50,0**	34,6
Total	**154,4**	139,0

Allotment by Beneficiary

	2003-2004	2002-2003
	($ 000)	
Non-profit Organizations	**50,0**	34,6
Individuals	**104,4**	104,4
Total	**154,4**	139,0

Allotment by Expenditure Category

	2003-2004	2002-2003
	($ 000)	
Support	**154,4**	139,0
Total	**154,4**	139,0

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BUDGET PLAN

The expenditure budget of the National Assembly is divided among three programs that use appropriations allotted to them to optimize the core businesses of the National Assembly.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2003-2004		2002-2003	
	EXPENDITURE BUDGET ($000) (1)	CHANGE ($000) (2)=(1)-(3)	EXPENDITURE BUDGET ($000) (3)	PROBABLE EXPENDITURE ($000) (4)
1. Secrétariat général et Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires parlementaires et institutionnelles	16,619.9	855.5	15,764.4	15,764.4
2. Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires administratives	33,567.3	914.2	32,653.1	32,653.1
3. Statutory Support Services for Parliamentarians	41,446.8	(1,785.3)	43,232.1	43,232.1
Total	91,634.0	(15.6)	91,649.6	91,649.6
Staff level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	586	—	586	—

The National Assembly's 2003-2004 expenditure budget totals $91.6 million, i.e. the same level as probable expenditure in 2002-2003.

Note that the National Assembly expenditure budget appearing in the 2003-2004 appropriations is indicated for information purposes only, and the Office of the National Assembly has the prerogative of making any adjustments deemed appropriate.

Program 1: Secrétariat général et Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires parlementaires et institutionnelles

The purpose of this program is to assist MNAs in performing their role as legislators and controllers of government activity, to inform parliamentarians and the public about National Assembly proceedings, and to administer the library, protocol and educational, and interparliamentary activities.

Expenditures under this program in 2003-2004 will be $0.9 million greater than in the 2002-2003 expenditure budget. This is due mainly to an increase in remuneration costs.

Program 2: Secrétariat général adjoint aux affaires administratives

The purpose of this program is to support MNAs and administrative units in managing financial, human and material resources, and services related to broadcasting debates, information technology, personal and physical security, on the one hand, and management of the buildings and restaurants on the other.

The $0.9 million increase in the expenditure budget is mainly the result of a $0.5 million increase in payroll costs and a $0.4 million increase in energy costs for operating and maintaining the fixed assets.

Program 3: Statutory Support Services for Parliamentarians

This program provides MNAs with the resources they need to carry out their duties.

Expenditures under this program will be $1.8 million less than in the 2002-2003 expenditure budget. This budget variation is due mainly to a $0.8-million increase in general expenditures by MNAs and a $2.6-million decrease in expenditures associated with the retirement plan for MNAs.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2003-2004 ($000)	2002-2003 ($000)
Fixed Assets	5,806.3	8,920.2
Loans, Investments and Advances	—	—

The capital budget for fiscal year 2003-2004 shows a decrease of $3.1 million, in comparison to the 2002-2003 budget. The majority of the amount invested in 2003-2004 is for updating the technological infrastructures and acquiring related hardware and equipment.

PERSONS APPOINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

Programs	2003-2004 Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	2002-2003 Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. The Public Protector	8 003,5	110,3	200,0	**8 093,2**	8 012,1
2. The Auditor General	19 279,0	415,9	250,0	**19 113,1**	18 983,0
3. Administration of the Electoral System	72 260,0	1 520,0	1 910,0	**72 650,0**	37 308,6
4. The Lobbyists Commissioner	2 495,4	121,2	18,0	**2 392,2**	1 830,4
	102 037,9	2 167,4	2 378,0	**102 248,5**	66 134,1
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations				**72 900,3**	37 558,9
Carry-over Appropriations				**225,5**	-
Appropriations to be Voted				**29 122,7**	28 575,2

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	2003-2004	2002-2003
		($ 000)
Remuneration	**35 750,9**	44 142,5
Operating	**63 555,0**	19 090,2
Transfer	**2 732,0**	2 484,7
Total	**102 037,9**	65 717,4
Programs Staff Level	**562**	544
Total Staff Level	**562**	544
Capital Budget		
Fixed Assets	**2 378,0**	2 674,5
Total	2 378,0	2 674,5

Program 1
The Public Protector

Element	2003-2004				2002-2003
	Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. The Public Protector	8 003,5	110,3	200,0	**8 093,2**	8 012,1
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Public Protector Act, (R.S.Q., c. P-32)					
Element 1				**250,3**	250,3
Carry-over Appropriations					
Appropriation Act N° 2, 2002-2003 (2002, c. 3)				**225,5**	-
Appropriation to be Voted				**7 617,4**	7 761,8

The objective of this program is to enable the Public Protector to consider and appraise citizens' complaints regarding government administration.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	Element 1	2003-2004	2002-2003
	($ 000)		
Remuneration	6 319,6	**6 319,6**	6 182,5
Operating	1 683,9	**1 683,9**	1 732,6
	8 003,5	**8 003,5**	7 915,1
Total Staff Level	94	**94**	94
Capital Budget			
Fixed Assets	200,0	**200,0**	200,0
	200,0	**200,0**	200,0

Authorization to carry over a portion of the appropriation under this program

The unused portion of the appropriation in respect of this program may be carried over in 2004-2005 in an amount equivalent to up to 3% of the appropriation to be voted, provided that this appropriation has not been increased through recourse to the contingency fund.

Program 2
The Auditor General

Element	2003-2004				2002-2003
	Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. The Auditor General	19 279,0	415,9	250,0	**19 113,1**	18 983,0
Appropriation to be Voted				**19 113,1**	18 983,0

The objective of this program is to enable the Auditor General to carry out an audit, to verify conformity and optimal use of the resources of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, departments and several government agencies and enterprises and to report the results of this examination to the National Assembly.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	**Element** 1	**2003-2004**	**2002-2003**
	($ 000)		
Remuneration	16 294,4	**16 294,4**	14 966,0
Operating	2 984,6	**2 984,6**	3 522,9
	19 279,0	**19 279,0**	18 488,9
Total Staff Level	252	**252**	234
Capital Budget			
Fixed Assets	250,0	**250,0**	950,0
	250,0	**250,0**	950,0

Program 3
Administration of the Electoral System

Elements	2003-2004				2002-2003
	Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. Internal Management and Support	16 152,9	640,0	610,0	**16 122,9**	13 562,6
2. Commission de la représentation électorale	203,8	-	-	**203,8**	201,1
3. Electoral Activities	55 903,3	880,0	1 300,0	**56 323,3**	23 544,9
	72 260,0	1 520,0	1 910,0	**72 650,0**	37 308,6
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Election Act, (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3)					
Element 1				**16 122,9**	13 562,6
Element 2				**203,8**	201,1
Element 3				**56 323,3**	23 544,9
Appropriation to be Voted				-	-

The objective of this program is to enforce legislation respecting election administration and the financing of political parties.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	**Elements**			**2003-2004**	**2002-2003**
	1	2	3		
			($ 000)		
Remuneration	11 545,4	-	-	**11 545,4**	22 173,3
Operating	4 607,5	203,8	53 171,3	**57 982,6**	13 280,6
Transfer	-	-	2 732,0	**2 732,0**	2 484,7
	16 152,9	203,8	55 903,3	**72 260,0**	37 938,6
Total Staff Level	195	-	-	**195**	195
Capital Budget					
Fixed Assets	610,0	-	1 300,0	**1 910,0**	1 000,0
	610,0	-	1 300,0	**1 910,0**	1 000,0

Program 4
The Lobbyists Commissioner

Element	2003-2004				2002-2003
	Expenditure Budget	Less: Depreciation	Plus: Capital Budget	**Appropriations**	Appropriations
			($ 000)		
1. The Lobbyists Commissioner	2 495,4	121,2	18,0	**2 392,2**	1 830,4
Appropriation to be Voted				**2 392,2**	1 830,4

The objective of this program is to allow the Lobbyists Commissioner to oversee and control lobbying activities with those holding a public trust within parliamentary, government and municipal institutions.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	**Element**		2003-2004	2002-2003
	1			
		($ 000)		
Remuneration	1 591,5		**1 591,5**	820,7
Operating	903,9		**903,9**	554,1
	2 495,4		**2 495,4**	1 374,8
Total Staff Level	21		**21**	21
Capital Budget				
Fixed Assets	18,0		**18,0**	524,5
	18,0		**18,0**	524,5

Transfer Appropriations

	2003-2004	2002-2003
	($ 000)	
Program 3 - Administration of the Electoral System		
Financing of Political Parties	**2 732,0**	2 484,7
Total	**2 732,0**	2 484,7

Allotment by Beneficiary

	2003-2004	2002-2003
	($ 000)	
Non-profit Organizations	**2 732,0**	2 484,7
Total	**2 732,0**	2 484,7

Allotment by Expenditure Category

	2003-2004	2002-2003
	($ 000)	
Support	**2 732,0**	2 484,7
Total	**2 732,0**	2 484,7

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLANS OF PERSONS APPOINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR

MESSAGE OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR

The annual expenditure management plan covers the 2003-2004 fiscal year and is derived from the orientations and objectives of the 2001-2004 strategic plan transmitted to the President of the National Assembly in March 2001. It presents resource allocations contemplated to achieve the strategic orientations, in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Administration Act* (R.S.Q., c. A-6.01).

This plan, which I am committed to realizing, seeks to improve the protection of citizens against errors or injustices of the public administration, in accordance with the Public Protector's mission.

PAULINE CHAMPOUX-LESAGE

THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR

BUDGET PLAN

The budget variation compared to last year comes from carrying forward appropriations not used in 2002-2003.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

		2003-2004		2002-2003	
		EXPENDITURE BUDGET	VARIATION	EXPENDITURE BUDGET	PROBABLE EXPENDITURE
		($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)
		(1)	(2)=(1)-(3)	(3)	(4)
1.	The Public Protector	8,003.5	88.4	7,915.1	7,601.7
	Total	8,003.5	88.4	7,915.1	7,601.7
	Staff level (FTEs)	94	0	94	—

The purpose of this program is to enable the Public Protector to receive grievances from citizens about the public administration, intervene to correct prejudicial situations and prevent them from recurring. It is also intended to prevent prejudicial situations and protect democratic rights and values.

For 2003-2004, the Public Protector forecasts expenditures similar to the previous year. No specific item has significantly changed the activities necessary to accomplish her organization's mission, except for a special expenditure estimated at $47,000 to ensure the organization for the meeting of the board of directors of the International Ombudsman Institute, which it will host in October 2003.

The staff level grew by nine positions by Order in Council in 2002-2003. The correction made by the Order in Council reflects transfers of positions and additional remuneration appropriations obtained in previous years.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2003-2004 ($000)	2002-2003 ($000)
Fixed Assets	200.0	200.0
Loans, Investments and Advances	—	—

Capital expenditures in 2003-2004 will allow for beginning the overhaul of the investigation file management system. Capital expenditures will also be necessary to maintain the computer equipment that supports the accomplishment of the Public Protector's mission.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL

MESSAGE FROM THE AUDITOR GENERAL

The annual expenditure management plan for the 2003-2004 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with our 2003-2006 strategic plan, which will be tabled in the National Assembly shortly. This plan, which I will implement, aims to assure the continuity and development of my audit activities.

DORIS PARADIS, CA
Interim Auditor General

THE AUDITOR GENERAL

BUDGET PLAN

The program's objective is to enable the Auditor General to conduct the financial statement audit, the authorization compliance audit and the resource optimization audit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the government departments, agencies and corporations and grant recipients. On the other hand, its purpose is also to provide the Auditor General with the means of communicating the result of this work in a report tabled in the National Assembly.

We should note that on April 18, 2002, the Office of the National Assembly approved an Auditor General staff recovery plan. The Auditor General's staff level had declined by more than 50 positions in the preceding ten years. The recovery plan, which was approved, aims to increase this staff level by 43 positions: 25 positions in 2002-2003 and 18 more in 2003-2004.

For 2003-2004, application of this recovery plan is therefore causing a budget increase of $1.3 million. However, a portion of this amount, $383,000, will serve to support the annual increase in salaries and other costs. Thus, in 2003-2004, out of the 18 additional positions authorized, the Auditor General forecasts that 11 positions will be filled.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

		2003-2004		2002-2003	
		EXPENDITURE BUDGET	VARIATION	EXPENDITURE BUDGET	PROBABLE EXPENDITURE
		($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)
		(1)	(2) = (1) - (3)	(3)	(4)
2.	The Auditor General	19,279.0	790.1	18,488.9	17,163.6
	Total	19,279.0	790.1	18,488.9	17,163.6
	Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	252	18	234	234

The budget variation in 2003-2004 is explained as follows:

- $1,251,000 due to the increase in resources forecast in the staff recovery plan, with the aim of restoring the audit staff to a more acceptable level, thus contributing to reducing the high staff turnover rate;
- $9,100 from the increase in rental expenditure;
- and the reduction of non-recurring expenditures by $470,000, related to the Québec City office move.

The variance between the 2002-2003 expenditure budget and the probable expenditure primarily results from the additional costs occasioned by the move, which were accounted for as investments.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2003-2004 ($000)	2002-2003 ($000)
Fixed Assets	250.0	950.0
Loans, Investments and Advances	—	—

The variation of the capital budget in 2003-2004 is explained by $700,000 in non-recurring expenditures in 2002-2003 related to setting up the new Québec City office.

In 2003-2004, the Auditor General's capital expenditures will mainly pertain to computer hardware.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ELECTIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ELECTIONS

This annual expenditure management plan was prepared in accordance with our 2001-2005 strategic orientations, which were transmitted to the President of the National Assembly on March 30, 2001.

The budget information included in this expenditure management plan covers the 2003-2004 fiscal year. These data are only provided by way of indication, given that under the *Public Administration Act* (R.S.Q., c. A-6.01), the Director General of Elections is not required to submit an annual expenditure management plan.

However, the *Public Administration Act* (R.S.Q., c. A-6.01) concerns the Director General of Elections with regard to strategic planning, particularly for the annual management report.

MARCEL BLANCHET

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ELECTIONS

BUDGET PLAN

The budgets of the Directeur général des élections du Québec (DGE) and of the Commission de la représentation électorale (CRE) are included in Program 3 of the "Persons Appointed by the National Assembly" portfolio, Administration of the Electoral System. The purpose of this program is to apply the election administration and political party financing laws.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

		2003-2004		2002-2003	
		EXPENDITURE BUDGET	VARIATION	EXPENDITURE BUDGET	PROBABLE EXPENDITURE
		($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)
		(1)	(2)=(1)-(3)	(3)	(4)
3.	Administration of the Electoral System	72,260.0	34,321.4	37,938.6	37,938.6
	Total	72,260.0	34,321.4	37,938.6	37,938.6
	Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	195	0	195	195

The 2003-2004 expenditure budget of the DGE is $34.3 million greater than that of 2002-2003. This variance is notably explained by the addition in 2002-2003, to the original budget of $23.3 million, of an amount of $3.0 million for the holding of by-elections, $12.0 million for implementation of activities preparatory to the holding of general elections and a provision for the holding of such an event. Moreover, the 2003-2004 expenditure budget includes an amount of $46.0 million for the holding of general elections and $2.7 million for school board elections.

The budget forecasts of the DGE, appearing in the 2003-2004 expenditure budget, are only included for information purposes. It is up to a parliamentary committee, during the study of these budget forecasts and the preliminary financial report, to approve them and table its report at the National Assembly.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2003-2004 ($000)	2002-2003 ($000)
Fixed Assets	1,910.0	1,000.0
Loans, Investments and Advances	—	—

During the coming year, the capital budget of the DGE will mainly pertain to three intervention approaches of strategic planning, namely "Optimum use of technology", "High-quality services to citizens and partners" and "Sharing of expertise".

THE LOBBYISTS COMMISSIONER

MESSAGE FROM THE LOBBYISTS COMMISSIONER

On June 13, 2002, the National Assembly adopted the *Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act* (2002, c. 23) and, on June 14, appointed a Lobbyists Commissioner responsible for supervision and control of lobbying activities carried out with public office holders.

Since taking office on August 5, 2002, three priorities have guided my actions:

— Acquisition of specific expertise in lobbying by recruiting competent human resources and allocating adequate physical, financial and informational resources to perform the mandate entrusted to me;

— Dissemination of information regarding the Act and its objectives to the many diverse players of the lobbying community and the general public;

— Drafting of a lobbying code of ethics submitted to the President of the National Assembly within the time limit prescribed by the Act, January 30, 2003, which was then tabled at the National Assembly last March 11.

I am also, in conjunction with my team, engaged in the process of drafting the first strategic plan, which will spell out the orientations, objectives and actions guaranteeing the accomplishment of my mandate. This will be followed by the drafting of an annual expenditure management plan for the fiscal year 2004-2005.

ANDRÉ C. CÔTÉ

THE LOBBYISTS COMMISSIONER

BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

		2003-2004		2002-2003	
		EXPENDITURE BUDGET	VARIATION	EXPENDITURE BUDGET	PROBABLE EXPENDITURE
		($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)
		(1)	(2)=(1)-(3)	(3)	(4)
4.	The Lobbyists Commissioner	2,495.4	1,120.6	1,374.8	852.2
	Total	2,495.4	1,120.6	1,374.8	852.2
	Staff Level (FTEs)	21	0	21	—

The increase in the 2003-2004 expenditure budget is the due to the Lobbyists Commissioner's first full budget year.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2003-2004 ($000)	2002-2003 ($000)
Fixed Assets	18.0	524.5
Loans, Investments and Advances	—	—

Conseil du trésor
Québec